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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania/Czechoslovakia

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The following report regarding the possible exchange of goods between Czechoslovakia and Albania was received in English translation. Although [REDACTED] does not know the exact origin of this document, it was probably prepared in a section of the Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Ministry and a clue to the specific section may be indicated by the translator's name, O. Cardew, noted at the end of this report.

"Enclosure to c.j.II/1 -3103/39 - 1949

"Report Concerning the Negotiations of Our Experts in Albania

"A. Commercial-Political Observations

I. Possibilities of Imports to Czechoslovakia

1. Chromium ore: According to the Merchandise Exchange Agreement between Czechoslovakia and Albania, the quota specified for chromium ore is 10,000 tons. The commercial delegation discovered that this quota may be increased to 15,000 tons. Since we require chromium ore for the ceramics industry, which requires ore having a minimum chromium content of--(illegible in original translation) per cent, Albanian ore, which contains more than 40 per cent chromium, is useful for our purposes.
2. Walnut timber: A total of 200 tons of walnut timber will be purchased for plywood and veneers, according to the terms of the agreement. Albanian timber is not properly cut and therefore does not meet our requirements. If properly controlled, Albania's timber output could be increased to about 600 tons per year; 50 per cent could be allocated for industrial, 30 per cent for technical purposes (i.e. rifle butts), and the remainder for planks.
3. Briar (bruyere): Although the quota specified in the agreement was fixed at about 50 tons, it is doubtful that we require this amount. Albania's annual production of bruyere is an estimated 200 tons.

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- "4. Box wood (Buxus): Albania's annual output of box wood averages 500 tons of wood, 8 to 15 centimeters thick.
- "5. Elm lumber: The amount of 1,000 cubic meters of elm lumber specified in the agreement is too high. Elm grows only in certain regions of Albania and the quality does not meet our industrial requirements.
- "6. Maple lumber: Albanian maple lumber is of average quality, but we do not require this item.
- "7. Oak timber: Oak timber for plywood and barrels is not obtainable in Albania, which has a type of oak useful only for the construction of railroad sleeping cars.
- "8. Animal casings: According to the agreement 30,000 bundles of animal casings are to be delivered from Albania, and the commercial delegation estimates that we can purchase about 5,000,000 Czech crowns' worth of good quality casings to fulfill our needs. Albania's annual output of casings is an estimated 140,000 sheep casings and about 250,000 meters of cattle casings. Albania can also supply special types of casings and dried surgical gut.
- "9. Herbs: No fixed quota for herbs was set in the agreement. Albania has various qualities of herbs now stored in local warehouses, some of which have been properly dried and stored, but a considerable amount has been neglected. To date, the collection of herbs has not been organized and it will be necessary to send experts to Albania to classify and sort those herbs which Czechoslovakia purchases.
- "10. Green hemp: Czechoslovakia is not interested in purchasing hemp from Albania because the samples, which our experts brought back with them, were of an inferior quality. It is possible that Czechoslovakia's hemp imports from Albania may be stopped.
- "11. Horns and Hoofs: Albania has offered to deliver 10,000 kilograms of hoofs and horns (mixed horns and cow hoofs) and 1,000 kilograms of horns, but the collection of horns and hoofs has not yet been organized and the quality not yet tested.
- "12. Natural asphalt: Albania's natural asphalt is first quality, about the same as Trinidad asphalt, but Albania's annual output is rather limited. Albania produces about 30,000 tons per year and an estimated 6,000 tons, valued at 8,000,000 Czech crowns, can be delivered to Czechoslovakia this year. Kutchov asphalt: Daily production averages 80 tons. Unless sheet metal for containers is delivered, Albania cannot fulfill or increase our quota.

"II Merchandise not listed in the Agreement

- "1. Hides and Furs: The quality of Albanian raw hides has improved immeasurably and the collection of hides has been organized. Goat and lamb skins are suitable for use in the manufacture of our export footwear. We could also use kid skins. Furs: Large quantities of furs would be available if trapping were properly organized in Albania. Czechoslovakia is primarily interested in procuring marten and skunk furs which are of first quality, but we are not interested in fox furs, owing to lack of demand. Albania has very few otter, wildcat and bear.
- "2. Tanning material: Valonia oak is common in Albania and is suitable for our leather tanning industry. We would be interested in purchasing 460 tons of Albania Valonia oak for 1950, provided it has a 33 to 36 per cent content of tanning materials.

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- "3. Oil seeds: Albania's annual production of sunflower seeds is 6,500, to 7,000 tons, valued at an estimated 35,000,000 Czech crowns; about 1,000 tons of peanuts valued at about 3,000,000 Czech crowns; 1,000 tons of castor oil seeds valued at 18,000,000 Czech crowns; 500 tons soya beans valued at 3,000 Czech crowns; and about 500 tons sesame seed, valued at 5,000,000 Czech crowns. We are interested in tobacco seed, 200 tons of grape seed, valued at 500,000 Czech crowns, and about 100 tons of olive oil.
- "4. Cotton: Albania produces 3,500 to 4,00 tons of a very good grade of cotton. We can use any amount of Albanian cotton and at least 1,000 tons, valued at 35,000,000 Czech crowns, should be purchased.
- "5. Wool: Albania's annual production of wool is 1,200 to 1,500 tons; Czechoslovakia would be interested in purchasing 300 to 500 tons for 15,000,000 to 25,000,000 Czech crowns. Czechoslovakia would also like to purchase animal hair.
- "6. Laurel: We are not interested in purchasing laurel since we already purchased about 50,000 kilograms for 500,000 crowns from Italy, France and Yugoslavia.
- "7. Juniper Berries: This year Albania organized the collection of juniper berries and now wishes to know if we are interested in purchasing some. Our annual requirements are about 200,000 kilograms.
- "8. Valonia: (Dried acorn cups of Valonia oak used in tanning.) Albania's yearly production is about 7,000 tons; we need 400 tons or about 2,000 crowns' worth.
- "9. Resin: There are many possibilities for the procurement of resin from Albania, but a system for collecting resin will have to be organized.
- "10. Chestnuts: Possible deliveries about 20 to 30 tons.
- "11. Asphodelus for alcohol production: This should be taken care of by Keospol.
- "12. Urgines Maritima for our chemical industry: Chemapol is not interested.
- "13. Pyrites: Czechoslovakia would purchase 10,000 tons. Albania's annual output is about 20,000 tons. Pyrites have not been mined because their utilization in the manufacture of copper is too expensive. Czechoslovakia would have to supply proper machinery to Albania, since we are interested in pyrites for the copper industry.
- "14. Gypsum: We could use great quantities of alabaster, white gypsum for medical purposes. Keremiky and Metrans must supply transportation. Political pressure will have to be used to encourage Albania to export gypsum to us.
- "15. Copper: We are interested in copper. Albania's annual production is estimated at 1,000 to 2,000 tons.
- "16. Tobacco: Albania has many different varieties of tobacco, which we could import.
- "17. Sea salt for industrial purposes and raw soap can also be imported from Albania.

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"III. Export Possibilities to Albania

- "1. Spare parts for Czechoslovak and foreign-manufactured automobiles.
- "2. Diesel motors.
- "3. Textile machines.
- "4. Fuel injectors.
- "5. Locomotive wheel-work.
- "6. Derrick spare parts.
- "7. Cyclostyle spare parts
- "8. Machinery spare parts for shoe manufacturing industry.
- "9. Cigarette machines.
- "10. Measuring instruments, which are in great demand.
- "11. Boiler pipes for Vlonc combines.
- "12. Turbines; 110-120 Hp, Diesel motors, 1,000 revolutions per minute; derrick equipment; about 33 tons of black sheet metal for barrels, which are to be used to transport asphalt.
- "13. Spare parts for Hellman brewing machines, for Korce brewery.
- "14. Klinger water gauges for Korce sugar refinery. Textile machinery spare parts and needles for Korce textile mill.
- "15. Various types of industrial machinery, equipment and spare parts.

"B. Technical Aid to Albania

- "1. Agriculture and Forestry: We should supply a great number of experts in both fields to construct an adequate transportation system in forest areas, and train Albanian foresters in the proper use of available timber. The population will have to be instructed in modern methods of forestry. Schools should be established for the training of forestry techniques. Albania's forest reserves have not been utilized systematically.
- " Czechoslovakia could supply several college professors, experts, and administrators of forestry and forest economy to prepare a long-term program for Albanian forestry.
- " Albania should send some of their forestry workers to Czechoslovakia, where they could gain practical, modern knowledge of timber exploitation. A few could be trained at our modern saw mills and in barrel manufacturing industries. We recommend six months' instruction.
- "2. Albanian Industry: Albania needs many industrial schools for training industrial exports. Czechoslovakia could supply several teacher-experts who could instruct Albanian students in handling textile and other types of machinery."

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